PRICE 10 cents

NOVENA to OUR LADY of FATIMA

by Lester M. Dooley, S. V. D.

A QUEEN'S WORK PAMPHLET

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1. HYMN.

2. OPENING PRAYERS FOR EVERY DAY.

Prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

O Heart of Mary, * Mother of God and our Mother; * Heart most worthy of love, * in which the adorable Trinity * is ever well pleased, * worthy of the veneration and love * of all the angels and of all men; * Heart most like to the Heart of Jesus, * of which thou art the perfect image; * Heart, full of goodness, * ever compassionate toward our miseries; * deign to melt our icy hearts * and grant that they may be wholly changed * into the likeness of the Heart of Jesus, * our divine Savior. *

Pour into them the love of thy virtues, * enkindle in them that divine fire * with which thou thyself dost ever burn. *

In thee let holy Church find a safe shelter; * protect her and be her dearest refuge, * her tower of strength, * impregnable against every assault of her enemies. *

Be thou the way which leads to Jesus, * and the channel, * through which we receive all the graces * needful for our salvation. *

Be our refuge in time of trouble, * our solace in the midst of trial, * our strength against temptation, * our haven in persecution, * our present help in every danger, *

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THE QUEEN'S WORK

and especially at the hour of death, * when all hell shall let loose against us its legions * to snatch away our souls, * at that dread moment, * that hour so full of fear, * whereon our eternity depends. * Ah, then, most tender Virgin, * make us to feel the sweetness of thy motherly heart, * and the might of thine intercession with Jesus, * and open to us a safe refuge * in that very fountain of mercy, * whence we may come to praise Him with thee in paradise, * world without end. Amen.

(An indulgence of 500 days; a plenary indulgence on the usual terms, provided that this prayer be devoutly recited every day for a month.)

Act of Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Most holy Virgin and our beloved Mother, * we listen with grief * to the complaints of thy Immaculate Heart * surrounded with the thorns * which ungrateful men place therein * at every moment * by their blasphemies and ingratitude. * Moved by the ardent desire of loving thee as our Mother * and of promoting a true devotion * to thy Immaculate Heart, * we prostrate ourselves at thy feet * to prove the sorrow we feel * for the grievances * that men cause thee, * and to atone, * by means of our prayers and sacrifices, * for the offenses * with which men return * thy tender love. *

Obtain for them and for us * the pardon of so many sins. * A word from thee * will obtain grace * and amendment for us all. *

Hasten, O Lady, * the conversion of sinners, * that they may love Jesus * and cease to offend the Lord, * already so much offended, * that they may not fall into hell. *

Turn thine eyes of mercy toward us, * that henceforth * we may love God with all our hearts * while on earth * and enjoy Him forever * in heaven. Amen.

Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, *
Hear and grant our petitions in this novena. *

Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, *
Pray for us. *
(300 days indulgence.)

Sweet Heart of Mary, *
Be my salvation.*
(300 days indulgence.)

Immaculate Queen of Peace, *
Pray for us. *
(300 days indulgence.)

Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces, *
Pray for us.

3. Recitation of the Holy Rosary.

After the Glory Be to the Father, etc., add the post-decade ejaculations asked by Our Lady of Fatima in the third apparition, July 13, 1917. The Bishop of Leiria, in whose diocese Fatima is located, has granted an indulgence of 100 days for each recital of these ejaculations:

"O my Jesus, pardon us; *
Save us from the fire of hell; *
Draw all souls to heaven, * especially those in most need."

4. Blessing.

Those present are blessed with a picture or statuette of Our Lady of Fatima, using the simple formula: "Through the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima, may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, descend upon you and remain with you always."

5. Announcements. Reading or Sermon.
6. Hymn and Collection.
7. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

O Salutaris

O Salutaris Hostia,
Quae coeli pandis ostium:
Bella premunt hostilia,
Da robur, fer auxilium.

Uni trinoque Domino
Sit sempiterna gloria,
Qui vitam sine termino,
Nobis donet in patria. Amen.

Tantum Ergo

Tantum ergo Sacramentum,
Veneremur cernui;
Et antiquum documentum
Novo cedat ritui;
Praestet fides supplementum
Sensuum defectui.

Genitori, Genitoque,
Laus et jubilatio,
Salus, honor, virtus quoque
Sit et benedictio;
Procedenti ab utroque
Compar sit laudatio. Amen.

Priest: Panem de coelo praestitisti eis. (Alleluia)

People: Omne delectamentum in se habentem. (Alleluia)

Priest: Deus, qui nobis sub Sacramento mirabili, passionis tuae memoriam reliquisti, tribue, quaesumus, ita nos corporis et sanguinis tui sacra mysteria venerari, ut redemptionis tuae fructum in nobis jugiter sentiamus. Qui vivis et regnas in saecula saeculorum.

People: Amen.

The Divine Praises

Blessed be God.

Blessed be His Holy Name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.

Blessed be the Name of Jesus.

Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.

Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.

Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse.

Blessed be God in His angels and in His Saints.

8. CONSECRATION.

Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

O Mary, * glorious Mother of God * and loving Mother of men, * in response to your plea * made known at Fatima * we consecrate ourselves * to your Immaculate Heart. *

We consecrate to you * our bodies and our souls, * our minds and our hearts. * We consecrate to you * our country, * our families, * our homes, * and our work. * We consecrate to you * all that is in us * and around us. *

We pledge ourselves, * O Immaculate Heart of Mary, * to profess courageously * and at all times * the truths of our holy faith. * We pledge ourselves * to keep the commandments of God * and the precepts

of the Church. * We pledge ourselves * to offer prayers and sacrifices * for the conversion of Russia * and for the conversion of sinners. * We pledge ourselves * to make reparation for the sins * and for the indifference of others. * Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, * accept our consecration to your Immaculate Heart * and grant us the grace to be faithful to it. * Amen.

9. *Ad lib:* "HOLY GOD" OR HYMN TO MARY.

10. *Ad lib:* VENERATION OF PICTURE OR STATUE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA.

CONFESSIONS.

READINGS

FIRST DAY

The Way to Jesus

My Immaculate Heart will be the way that leads to Jesus.

—Our Lady of Fatima

Saint Grignon de Montfort, one of the most devoted apostles of the Blessed Virgin Mary, did not hesitate to say: "God wishes that Mary be at present more known, more loved, more honored, than she ever has been. If Our Lord is not known today as He ought to be, it is because Mary is still unknown. It is Mary who brought the Savior into the world the first time; a second time, in a modern age, she will give Jesus again to the world and the world to Jesus."

In her motherly love and care she came to us, her children, at Fatima, saying "I am the Lady of the Rosary. I have come to warn the people to amend their lives

and ask pardon for their sins." With a look of great sadness and in a pleading voice she continued: "Men must no longer offend our divine Lord who is already too much offended."

Such, then, is Mary's great mission as given her on Calvary's hill by the dying Christ in the words: "Woman, behold thy son." From that very hour she entered upon her life's task of leading souls to Jesus. Of course, she had practiced this before. Through Mary, we can say, St. Joseph and Zaccharias, Elizabeth and the shepherds of Bethlehem came to Jesus. Through Mary the three Kings came to Jesus, the people of Nazareth, the pious women beneath the cross, and so on in the history of the Church. Wherever there have been grace-seeking souls who have found Jesus, they have done so through Mary. Even today the Church exultantly sings: "And after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary."

How will she save us today? Her way and her answer is the same as at Cana when she said: "Whatsoever He will tell you, do it." Therefore . . . back to the Gospel, which is Christ's word and Christ's way to save us.

Let us remember that since Mary is God's Mother she is so powerful. Let us remember, likewise, that since she is my Mother she is so solicitous for my salvation. "Only the Blessed Virgin can give peace to the world." At Fatima a Mother's love speaks, a Mother's heart pleads for her children who are in danger. We can be saved, we will be saved, if we listen, if we learn, if we practice the message of Fatima.

Recall here the promise of Our Lord to St. Brigid: "Ask me favors through the Immaculate Heart of my Mother, and you will obtain what you desire."

It is through Mary that we come to Jesus; it is through Mary that we may obtain all things from Jesus.

The message of Fatima is the revelation of the means of returning the world to Jesus through Mary.

The means of Fatima are penance, rosary, and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

To encourage us further, Jacinta uttered these words: "Tell everybody that God gives graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Tell them to ask these graces from her, and that the Heart of Jesus wishes to be venerated together with the Immaculate Heart of His dear Mother."

SECOND DAY

Consecration to Mary

I ask for the consecration of the whole world to my Immaculate Heart.

—Our Lady of Fatima

In one sense or other everyone is dedicated to the Blessed Mother. Among the first prayers lisped at our mother's knees was her holy name. Our youth and later years were consecrated to her maternal protection in a special way.

Now what does it mean "to consecrate oneself" to the Blessed Virgin? To consecrate oneself for something or for somebody means to give oneself away, to surrender, to sacrifice oneself. So we can say that the act of consecration to Mary is the gift of oneself to Mary. We speak, for instance, of persons consecrated to God in religion.

They are now set apart for God's holy service alone. The same is true of chalices or churches. They are then to be used, no longer for profane, but only for holy purposes.

In the consecration of oneself to Mary we see in the Immaculate Heart of Mary a symbol and a sensible image of her great love for Jesus and for all her children. And, therefore, our act of consecration is nothing else than an offering and a binding of ourselves to Jesus inspired by Mary's great love for Him. We consecrate ourselves to a Heart that is nearest and dearest to Jesus. It is the Heart through which we received Jesus, and it is through that same Heart that we will go to Jesus. It is the same Heart from which all graces flow because it is the Heart of the Mediatrix of All Graces.

One look at present-day movies, comics, magazines, books, and newspapers reveals the need of the Immaculate Heart in our lives. More than at any other time do we need today the Immaculate Heart for the purification of the world. We need souls dedicated to this Heart. We need souls who will make the general consecration a very personal consecration by giving themselves totally to Mary. In the Heart of Mary they will find a constant reminder "to seek first the Kingdom of God" and "seek the things that are above" as a safeguard for their conduct through life.

The act of consecration to Mary is a real program of sturdy Christian living. It is a solemn promise to realize this program under the special protection of Mary as far as human frailty will permit. It is the resolve to have no part in a world

where all flesh has corrupted its way (Gen. 6:12), to be a salt that preserves, and to be a light that shines and points to a better way. In it we bespeak our esteem for the virtue of purity, and our adherence to all the lofty maxims of the Gospel. In short, it is our inarticulate way of living as a sincere and practical Catholic where every action we perform is, or becomes, in a broad sense a consecrated act to console the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

According to God's will it is Mary who will lead the world back to Christ, to the Sacred Heart where alone it can find life and truth and everlasting peace. But Christ cannot reign as King of our hearts if Mary does not reign as Queen of our hearts. Hence she said: "I ask for the consecration of the whole world to my Immaculate Heart."

THIRD DAY

Sacrifice for Jesus

Men must amend their lives and ask pardon for their sins.

—Our Lady of Fatima

On October 31, 1942 the Holy Father beamed a radio address to Portugal, but the message was intended also for the rest of the world. On that occasion he reminded us of the Blessed Virgin's exhortation to do penance.

"She tells us all," he said, "to do penance, to amend our lives and flee from sin which is the principal cause of the awful chastisement with which Eternal Justice punishes the world. She bids us in a world given over to materialism and pagan propaganda, to be a sun of light to save and enlighten it. She bids us, cost what it may, to live as sincere, convinced, integral Catholics.

More still, she bids us out of the fulness of Christ, and by constant prayer, especially the daily rosary, as well as by such sacrifices as zeal inspires, to win for sinful souls the life of grace and life eternal."

In each of the six apparitions the Blessed Mother asked and repeated the same request, saying: "Men must amend their lives and ask pardon for their sins." And in a tone of sadness and sorrow she added at the final apparition on October 13, 1917: "Men must no longer offend Our Lord who has already been offended too much." This message of Fatima not only asks us to repent of our sins and to expiate them, but to change our lives, give up sin completely because it offends God and brings down castigation on us.

"What a loving reproach is contained in these words, what tender pleading," said Sister Mary of the Immaculate Heart (Lucy). "I wish I could make it re-echo throughout the entire world for all the children of our heavenly Mother to hear."

Jacinta likewise spoke of the need of amendment of life, not only for sinners, but also for the faithful. She insisted on the necessity of breaking away completely from sin, and urged the practice of Christian virtues and penance.

"Mortification and sacrifice please Jesus very much," she once said. And on another occasion she remarked: "Oh, if men only knew what eternity is, how they would amend their lives!" And yet again: "The sins of the world are too great. . . . Men must do penance. . . . If they amend their lives, Our Lord will pardon the world; but if they do not, the chastisement will come."

How well do these words fit into the picture of the world today! Let us humbly acknowledge that we have merited the predicament into which a godless leadership has precipitated us. Let us sincerely ask His pardon for past sins and beg His grace to begin a thorough reformation of our lives.

Let sinners amend their lives, and become good Christians.

Let Christians amend their lives and strive to become better.

Let these make efforts to become perfect.

Let the perfect tend toward greater perfection, thereby consoling God and averting another period of punishment.

Let one and all obey Fatima's message of penance, that is, of fidelity to duty, by sedulously avoiding all indolence, all self-indulgence and base sensuality.

Let us all enter upon a new era of sanctification and reparation as fervent Christians in the midst of a world that has gone berserk over amusement and dissipation, debasing itself with evil and sin. May this right-about-face merit for us the pardon and blessing of God which we crave.

FOURTH DAY

Reparation for Sins

Make sacrifices for sinners, for many souls go to hell because there is no one to make sacrifices for them.

—Our Lady of Fatima

On December 10, 1925 Our Lady with the Infant Jesus appeared to Lucy, showing her the Immaculate Heart surrounded with thorns; and the Infant Jesus said, indicating with His hands: "Have pity

on this loving heart, a continual martyr to the ingratitude of men." And the Blessed Mother added: "My child, behold my Heart pierced with thorns which the blasphemy and ingratitude of men drive deeper every moment. Do you, at least, try to console me, and make known to men that I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months go to confession, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the rosary, and spend a quarter of an hour with me in meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me."

In the third apparition the Blessed Virgin had said already: "Sacrifice yourself for sinners, and say often, but especially when you are making some sacrifice, 'O Jesus, it is for love of you, for the conversion of sinners, and to repair the offenses offered to the Immaculate Heart of Mary'."

Ever since the little ones had heard those words: "Sacrifice yourself for sinners. . ." they did not let a single day pass without sacrifice or mortification.

One especially hot day they could no longer resist their desire for a drink of refreshing water. Lucy went to procure some from an old woman who furnished her with a pitcherful and also added a piece of bread. The bread was divided among the three. Then Lucy handed the pitcher to Francis.

"I don't want to drink," he said. "I want to suffer for the conversion of sinners."

"You drink, Jacinta," said Lucy.

"No, I want to do penance."

Then Lucy poured the water into a hollow stone for the sheep. At other times they would say to each other, "Will you not do this for Our Lady, for Our Lord, for poor sinners?"

This word from heaven: "Sacrifice yourself for sinners. . ." was so deeply rooted in them that Jacinta made it her last beautiful message to Francis when he was dying: "When you come to heaven, give my loving thoughts to Jesus and Our Lady. Tell them that I am ready to suffer all that they wish of me for the conversion of sinners and in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

What splendid, apostolic generosity in these three children! Let us imitate them in some small way, becoming disciples of these little masters of the spiritual life, at least on the first Saturday of the month.

How deep, indeed, are the wounds inflicted today upon the Immaculate Heart by all those who have rejected her divine Son; by those who repeat today as in the day of His coming: "There is no room" for Him. Still today, as when He was born, is the saying verified: "He came unto His own and His own received Him not." Today through blasphemy, outrage, sacrilege, and impurity the words of the Evangelist come true: "They took up stones to throw at Him." Children sin against their Father in heaven, creatures persecute their Creator on earth and want a world without God or any moral code. How can we show a proof of our love for such an abandoned and forgotten and outraged God?

The answer will be found in your love of sacrifice, for the measure of one's love of God is the measure of one's love of sacrifice. In other words, great love of sacrifice evinces a great love of God; little love of sacrifice shows only a small love of God; and no love of sacrifice means no love of God.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary asks this of each one: "Sacrifice yourself for sinners."

The children of Fatima answered this request by saying: "Yes, we will suffer in reparation for sin and for the conversion of sinners."

Mortification and sacrifice please Jesus and Mary very much. How great and ardent is your love for Jesus and Mary?

FIFTH DAY

The Fire of Hell

Our Lady showed us a great sea of fire . . .
--Lucy

Lucy tells us: "On the thirteenth of July when Our Lady said: 'Sacrifice yourself for sinners . . .' she stretched out her hands once more, as she had done twice before. The projected light seemed to pierce the earth and we saw a great sea of fire which seemed to be under the earth. Immersed in the flames, black and burning, were demons and souls in human form. They were like transparent furnaces floating in this fire, carried about by clouds of smoke. Lifted up into the air by the flames, they fell back on all sides like sparks in a conflagration, unable to maintain their equilibrium, uttering wild cries of pain and despair which made us tremble with terror, fear, and awe. The

devils were distinguished from the human beings by their horrible, disgusting animal forms, unknown to us but transparent as live coals."

"This fearful sight lasted only a moment," wrote Sister Lucy (now Sister Mary of the Immaculate Heart) in 1942, "and we must thank our heavenly Mother for having promised us beforehand to take us to heaven, or I believe we should have died of horror and fear."

If the mere sight of hell, and that but for a single moment, is so unbearable to innocent souls, what must the eternal endurance of its sufferings be to guilty souls without the help of grace?

Our Lord once allowed St. Catherine of Siena to behold the devil, one devil alone, for a short space of time, hardly a minute; and when the saint emerged from her trance, she said she would choose to walk on a bed of fire until Judgment Day rather than to see the devil again.

Our Lady of Fatima ardently desires that every soul escape the eternal flames, for every soul lost to her beloved Son, Jesus, is a child lost to her also. Therefore she requested the following prayers after each mystery of the rosary:

"O my Jesus, pardon us;
Save us from the fire of hell;
Draw all souls to heaven, especially those in most need."

(100 days indulgence for each recitation, granted by the Bishop of Leiria.)

What Lucy has told us of hell can be applied to purgatory also, since there is little difference between the pains of hell and purgatory. Saints have said that purgatory is a shortened hell. It differs

from it in this: that it will have an end.

These little ejaculations inserted after the decades call to mind the final realities of human existence: judgment, heaven, hell, purgatory. By their repetition these prayers supplicate souls to guard themselves from falling into that terrible Atlantic Ocean kindled by the wrath of a just God.

Despite hell—which is God's sanction against sin—numberless crimes, sins, and offenses are committed at every moment in the world. Considering this, little Jacinta said, "I feel so sorry for Our Lady; so sorry."

Guilty souls should, therefore, recite Our Lady's special prayer for forgiveness, and innocent souls should recite it for the guilty. "Pray, pray for sinners," said Our Lady of Fatima, "for many souls go to hell because there are none to pray and to make sacrifices for them."

The modern world disregards hell. Many today deny its existence. But Our Lady of Fatima proved that there was and that there is a hell by showing it to the little shepherds at Fatima. A considerable number who believe in hell may say that very few go there. Our Lady gave her view in the words: "Many souls go to hell. . . ." And she added later: "Sins of the flesh precipitate most souls into hell." St. Theresa of Avila writes that she beheld souls falling into hell like the leaves of autumn.

Let us then address ourselves to the task of avoiding hell ourselves, and then be generous enough to accept Our Lady's urging: "Pray, pray much for sinners . . . and make sacrifices for them," to keep them from being condemned eternally.

SIXTH DAY

The Daily Rosary

I want you to say the rosary every day.
—Our Lady of Fatima

That the rosary is a great means of salvation is the general belief current among Catholics. Aside from Lourdes and Fatima, we have heard it recommended by competent ecclesiastical authorities, such as Pope Pius IX, the great Pope of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. From his deathbed he whispered the plea for the daily rosary, the daily family rosary. "Let the rosary be habitually recited every evening in every household. These are my last words to you, the memorial I leave behind."

Pope Leo XIII wrote some thirteen encyclicals on the rosary alone.

The late Pope Pius XI once said: "The Pope prays his rosary every day. As long as the Pope has not prayed his rosary, his day is not finished. If the Pope does not pray his rosary, he does not pray. We wish to be imitated in this matter."

Every evening over the air Archbishop Cushing of Boston leads his people in prayer by the recitation of the rosary.

Fathers and mothers could seek no greater blessing from God than at the close of their lives to bequeath to their children their own deep love for the rosary, especially the family rosary.

At Fatima, Our Lady chose for her purpose three little children who knew how to pray the rosary. She always appeared to them with the rosary and is so represented in the millions of images and statues which are today distributed throughout the world.

But even more convincing are the words of Our Lady herself. In the first apparition, when Lucy asked if Francis would also go to heaven, she replied: "He will also go to heaven, but he must say many more rosaries." Later Our Lady added: "Say the rosary every day to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war."

In the second apparition she said: "I want you to say the rosary every day."

In the third apparition: "I want you to continue to say the rosary every day in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary."

In the fourth apparition: "I want you to continue to say the rosary every day."

In the fifth apparition: "Continue to say the rosary."

In the sixth apparition: "I want to tell you . . . that I am the Lady of the Rosary; continue to say the rosary every day."

Who could remain indifferent to this maternal, insistent recommendation of Our Lady to say the rosary every day? It is the rosary that so pleases Our Lady.

The pledge of the daily rosary does not, normally, bind under pain of sin. If you forget or neglect it through a cause that you could not prevent, there is no sin committed nor any harm done. Let the rosary, then, become a part of your daily life. Comply with Mary's wishes and say to her: "Dear Blessed Mother, touched by your tender request asking me to say the holy rosary every day, I hereby promise to do so. Accept my rosary as my daily gift to you, the Queen of the Holy Rosary."

SEVENTH DAY

The Family Rosary

We must say it properly.

—Jacinta

The family rosary is especially needed today. Though a great war has terminated, still the peace we long for is not yet here. This attack was from outside. But today another attack is being launched against home and family, and that is an attack from the inside.

To solidify home life and overcome the cunning of our subtle enemy, every family must model itself on the Holy Family of Nazareth. Christ and Mary and good St. Joseph must be the silent, unseen members of each Catholic family. The secret of happiness, after which each family unconsciously strives and yearns, is founded on holiness. Now there is no better way for families to be united in holiness than through family prayer, especially through that form of prayer which we call the family rosary. Say the rosary together and your family will receive great graces stimulating to holiness and happiness. Christ Himself, the restorer of the home, advises us to pray together in a group: "For where there are two or three gathered together for my sake there am I in the midst of them." Christ in the midst of the family will make our prayer, our petitions more powerful. Moreover, let us recall Father Peyton's consoling slogan: "The family that prays together, stays together."

When the Blessed Virgin appeared at Fatima, she came to give the world a means of combating the evils and sorrows of today. She could have chosen a hundred different means. She chose the rosary,

the family rosary, recommending it in every apparition. "I am the Lady of the Rosary. . . . I have come to ask the faithful to amend their lives and ask pardon for their sins. They must not continue to offend Our Lord, already so deeply offended. They must recite the rosary."

It is the family that is threatened today, and it is the family that must be saved if the world is to be saved. The rosary has saved the world in the past. It can save it again by the family rosary, thus sanctifying home life at its very source even as the Blessed Virgin once said to Blessed Alan: "He who calls on me through the rosary shall not perish."

How refreshing and edifying, when the day's work is done, to witness father and mother with their children gathered about them, reciting the rosary before an image or statue of Mary, the Mother of God. Surely upon such a devout household will descend in copious streams the benediction of heaven.

A father of a family writes: "We heard of our heavenly Mother's wish for the family rosary. We began the daily family rosary in January 1946, and we have not missed a single day since that date. As we are the parents of six children, you can see that in the course of one evening over 300 Hail Marys ascend to our heavenly Mother for the salvation of the world and our own sanctification. In a month this figure amounts to 9000; in a year to 108,000 Hail Marys—and this just from one family. If ten families of equal size would say the daily family rosary for a period of one year, that would tally over one million Hail Marys. Surely such a grand total

must make an impression on our heavenly Mother."

Do you wish to eradicate selfishness and ban hatred from the world and bring God and love and charity and forgiveness back into the hearts of your fellowmen? Then say the family rosary.

EIGHTH DAY

The Five First Saturdays

I promise to assist them at the hour of death with the graces needed for salvation.
—Our Lady of Fatima

The full text of this wonderful promise is the following: "My child, behold my Heart pierced with thorns which the blasphemy and ingratitude of men drive deeper every moment. Do you, at least, try to console me, and make known to men that I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months go to confession, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the rosary, and spend a quarter of an hour with me in meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me."

In this promise, we see, Our Lady expressly asked for the devotion of the Five First Saturdays. It is, therefore, her own specially chosen devotion. How dear it must be to her Immaculate Heart can be seen from her revelation to Lucy one day when she said that souls who practice and spread this devotion would be dear to God and resemble "flowers placed by me before the throne of God."

How pleasing it must also be to the Sacred Heart of Jesus who worked for

thirty-three years on the sanctification and perfection of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, His Mother! When finally sanctified, when it was elaborately adorned with every virtue, when it was a model for our imitation—then Jesus from His vantage point on the cross commended His Mother to us in the words: "Behold thy Mother." He was saying, in other words, "Behold a Mother you should follow, a Mother you should love, a Mother you should honor and emulate."

Let us remember the words He spoke in His public life: "Whatever you have done to the least of my brethren, you have done to me." How much more can that be said of what we do in honor of Mary! Whatever you have done to my Mother, you have done to me, for the Son is honored in His Mother and the Mother is honored in her Son.

Before dying, little Jacinta said to Lucy: "When the moment will have come, say clearly that the good Lord grants His graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and that we must not hesitate to ask these of her. Tell the people that the Heart of Jesus desires to be honored together with the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

How appropriate is the honoring of Mary on Saturday, even as Friday is reserved for the cult of the Sacred Heart.

We celebrate the Nine First Fridays in honor of the Sacred Heart because of the consoling promise: "I promise in the excessive mercy of my Heart that my all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the first Friday of nine consecutive months the

grace of final penitence. They shall not die in my disgrace, nor without receiving their sacraments. My divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment."

Paralleling these words of the Sacred Heart are the corresponding words of the great promise of Our Lady of Fatima for the practice of the Five First Saturdays: "I will assist them at the hour of death with the graces needed for salvation." Such is Our Lady's promise as a fitting reward for making the Five First Saturdays.

In her wondrous message at Fatima she points the way back to God when she says: "My Immaculate Heart will be the way that leads to Jesus." This is her personal message to the world. If we heed her recommendations for returning the world to Jesus through her Immaculate Heart, we can avert, or at least mitigate, great chastisements which will fall upon us. This can be done through the daily rosary, through penance—that is, fidelity to duty—and by practicing the devotion of the Five First Saturdays in the spirit of reparation. If we do this, Mary will be mindful of us in our last hour. She will present us to Jesus, telling Him that where she is, there she also wishes her child to be. Let us listen and hearken to her call: "I come to ask the consecration of the world to my Immaculate Heart and for Communion of reparation on the first Saturdays of five consecutive months."

Conditions for the Five First Saturdays

1. Confession and Communion

The confession asked by the Blessed Mother may be made a week before or after the Communion, provided, of course,

the Communion is received in the state of grace.

2. Rosary

The rosary may be recited at any convenient time of the day.

3. Fifteen Minutes of Meditation

This meditation on the mysteries (on one, five, the full fifteen) may be made at any time of the day; as just mentioned, the number of mysteries chosen is entirely left to the devotion of the individual. It is permissible to combine the rosary and meditation by thinking on each mystery for a few minutes before reciting the decade. A sermon for the occasion or the Way of the Cross may be substituted for the meditation.

4. The Intention

The intention to do these acts of religion in order to make reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is essential.

NINTH DAY

The Lady — Her Triumph

I come from Heaven.
—Our Lady of Fatima

The message of Fatima was delivered to us through the three shepherd children of Fatima in 1917. It was a message of love that seems to be clear. God in His infinite goodness and wisdom could find no better way of calling men back from the sinfulness of the modern world than to allocate them to His mother who came to earth to ask for their love. This message of Fatima in its last analysis is, therefore, a message of love in a world lacerated by hate. What else could we expect from the heart of a Mother?

Lucy, describing this heavenly Mother, says: "She was a Lady all in white, more

brilliant than the sun, dispensing a light clearer and more intensive than a cup of crystalline water penetrated by the rays of the most glaring sun. Her face was not sad, but serious."

More than thirty years have passed since the message of Fatima was delivered, and yet, what has the world done to promote that message of hope and salvation? If we consider the dignity of the bearer of that divine message, her authority, her right to be heard, and our duty to obey, the message of Fatima should, by now, have been heard by everyone and everywhere. So much has already been written and spoken about it, and still many Catholics do not yet know of its wonders. What is worse: Many others know of it, but ignore it. And yet Our Lady considered this message so important that she personally came down to earth six times to announce it, begging us, the ungrateful children of God, to stop offending Jesus and to make reparation to her Immaculate Heart. She clearly indicated the means for this: the daily recitation of the rosary, fidelity to duty, and the devotion of the Five First Saturdays for which fulfillment she made the great promise: "To help at the hour of death with the graces needed for salvation."

To make us believe in her word and obey her demands, and to prove that her mission was of divine origin, she caused the wonderful Solar Prodigy of October 13, 1917 before a crowd of 70,000 people. This phenomenon is unique in history, and yet the Catholic world is unmoved.

Let us not harden our hearts; let us give Our Lady what she asks. It is in our own

interests to do so. Let us begin a truly Christian life by fidelity to the duties of our state of life. A real turning to God, NOW, before it is too late, must be our resolve. Away with all hesitation and procrastination! We need belief NOW to counteract the world's unbelief. We need hope NOW to match the world's despair. We need love NOW to conquer the world's hate.

Thus each one can speed the day of peace if he but practices and spreads the message of Fatima.

This is the beautiful apostolate for which Our Lady came down from heaven. This is the apostolate of the maternal love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for her earthly children. Will you refuse the invitation of your heavenly Mother?

Our Lady of Fatima revealed her Immaculate Heart, not merely as a particular devotion, but as an ideal and a sure WAY that leads to peace, a sure way that conducts to Jesus. "When my Immaculate Heart triumphs, Russia will be converted and there will be peace." Thus we see that the triumph of the Immaculate Heart depends on us.

If each Catholic would spread the knowledge of this beautiful devotion to only one other person, how quickly would the whole world turn to Our Lord through the Immaculate Heart of His Mother! That Christ may reign as King of our hearts, Mary must reign as Queen of our hearts. To hasten this ideal, we must first practice it ourselves, and then we must spread this message of Fatima to everyone, everywhere, and at all times.

II
OCCASIONAL PRAYERS

Litany of the Blessed Virgin

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.
God, the Father of Heaven,
Have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
Have mercy on us.
God the Holy Ghost,
Have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, one God,
Have mercy on us.
Holy Mary,
Holy Mother of God,
Holy Virgin of virgins,
Mother of Christ,
Mother of divine grace,
Mother most pure,
Mother most chaste,
Mother inviolate,
Mother undefiled,
Mother most amiable,
Mother most admirable,
Mother of good counsel,
Mother of our Creator,
Mother of our Redeemer,
Virgin most prudent,
Virgin most venerable,
Virgin most renowned,
Virgin most powerful,
Virgin most merciful,
Virgin most faithful,
Mirror of justice,
Seat of wisdom,
Cause of our joy,
Spiritual vessel,
Vessel of honor,

Pray for us.

Singular vessel of devotion,
Mystical rose,
Tower of David,
Tower of ivory,
House of gold,
Ark of the covenant,
Gate of heaven,
Morning star,
Health of the sick,
Refuge of sinners,
Comforter of the afflicted,
Help of Christians,
Queen of angels,
Queen of patriarchs,
Queen of prophets,
Queen of Apostles,
Queen of martyrs,
Queen of confessors,
Queen of virgins,
Queen of all saints,
Queen conceived without original sin,
Queen of the most holy rosary,
Queen of peace,
Pray for us.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
Spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
Graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let Us Pray

Grant, we beseech thee, O Lord God, unto us thy servants, that we may rejoice in continual health of mind and body; and, by the glorious intercession of blessed Mary

ever Virgin, may be delivered from present sadness, and enter into the joy of thine eternal gladness. Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

(An indulgence of 7 years.)

Litany of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Pray for our dear country.
Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Sanctify our clergy.
Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Make our Catholics more fervent.
Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Guide and inspire those who govern us.
Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Cure the sick who confide in you.
Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Console the sorrowful who trust in you.
Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Help those who invoke your aid.
Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Deliver us from all dangers.
Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Help us to resist temptation.
Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Obtain for us all we lovingly ask of you.
Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Make our family life holy.
Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Help those who are dear to us.
Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Bring back to the right road our erring brothers.
Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Give us back our ancient fervor.
Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Obtain for us pardon of our manifold sins and offenses.
Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Bring all men to the feet of your divine Child.

Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Obtain peace for the world.

LET US PRAY

O God of infinite goodness and mercy, fill our hearts with a great confidence in your most holy Mother, whom we invoke under the title of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and grant us by her most powerful intercession all the graces, spiritual and temporal, which we need. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Peace

Give peace, O Lord, in our days; for there is none other who fights for us but only thou, our God.

V. Let there be peace in thy strength, O Lord;

R. And plenty in thy strong places.

LET US PRAY

O God, from whom proceed all holy desires, all right counsels and just works, grant to us, thy servants, that peace which the world cannot give that our hearts may be devoted to thy service and that, being delivered from the fear of our enemies, we may pass our time in peace under thy protection. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Immaculate Queen of Peace, *pray for us.*

Against the Persecutors of the Church
(THE ROMAN MISSAL)

We beseech thee, O Lord, mercifully to receive the prayers of thy Church; that, all adversity and error being destroyed, she may serve thee in security and freedom. Through Our Lord. . . .

For the Pope
(THE ROMAN MISSAL)

O God, the shepherd and ruler of all the faithful, look down favorably upon thy servant *N*, whom thou hast been pleased to appoint pastor over thy Church; grant, we beseech thee, that he may benefit both by word and example those over whom he is set, and thus attain unto life eternal, together with the flock committed to his care. Through Our Lord. . . .

For the Whole Hierarchy of the Church
(THE ROMAN MISSAL)

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose spirit the whole body of the Church is sanctified and governed, hear our prayers for all Orders, that, by the gift of thy grace, all in their different degrees may faithfully serve thee. Through Our Lord. . . .

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During the Holy Year of 1950 the indulgences listed herein cannot be gained by the living for themselves, but for the Poor Souls only.

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